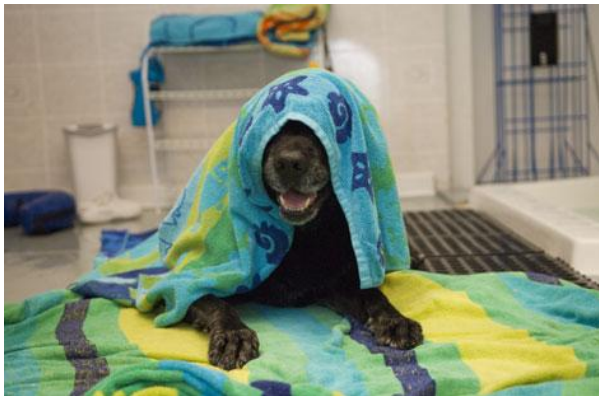




Spring 2014 Newsletter

WET, WET, WET



Muddy paws, muddy tails, muddy boots – it has been never ending. It is unlikely that anyone escaped the wind and rain this winter, but at last the snowdrops and daffodils are out and we can start to think about the warmer weather and walking our dogs in the lighter evenings.

Despite endless power cuts there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes at NARCH. We are upgrading and improving the functionality of the member records data base and planning improvements to the website. Later this year you will be sent an online survey so we can see if the improvements work for you and how you would like us to move forward.

STOP PRESS

Refresher First Aid Course – April 14th 2014 – At Chapel Farm, near Bristol, run by Clair Hucker CCRP, RVN, RCH.

To request a booking form contact enquiries@chapelfarmrehab.com or to download a booking form visit the events page at www.chapelfarmrehab.com.

NARCH AGM and Education Seminar – September 14th 2014 at Greyfriars, Guildford. Put this date in your diary – it's worth 7 Hours CPD for attending!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION SEMINAR

Another successful education seminar was held on March 9th 2014 at the beautiful Folly Farm Centre, Pensford, run by the charity The Avon Wildlife Trust.

So our fees have helped to support the charity and the work they do.



The day focussed on “Osteoarthritis” and we were treated to another informative presentation by orthopaedic surgeon Scott Rigg who had lectured for us last year at our Forres seminar.

We were very grateful to Scott for making the journey down to Bristol from his base near Aberdeen.

Vet Veerle Dejonckheere gave us a brilliant insight into how herbs and plants can play a useful role in nutrition and in the management of arthritis. She used the results from a survey that RCHs had completed online to support her talk.

Veterinary Physiotherapist Kate Vardy concluded with an interesting lecture on the role of physiotherapy and hydrotherapy in managing arthritis.

She covered the importance of assessment, planning and goal setting and re-assessment to check progress.

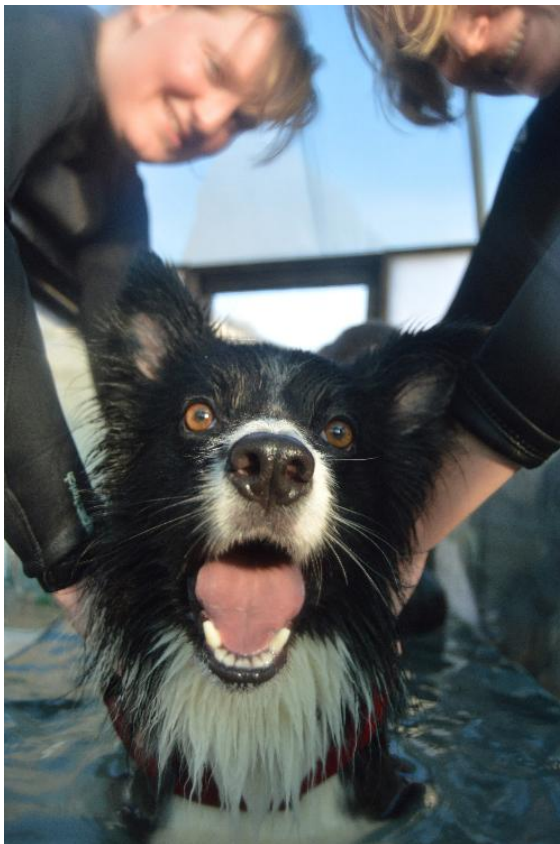
Those attending gained 7 hours CPD and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with fellow RCHs....who said that CPD was boring?

We will be heading to Manchester in 2015 – so if anyone has any suggestions for a suitable venue please let us know.



LISTING YOUR CENTRE

A GOOD WAY TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS



Registration with NARCH relates to the individual hydrotherapist and not to a Centre.

But you can get your Centre listed on the NARCH website so that it will show up when members of the public search for a centre.

Centre registration has step by step instructions for you to follow but here are a few tips to help you navigate:

- It is vital that you link an RCH with your centre AND that the RCH replies to the NARCH e-mail sent to them, to confirm that they are happy to be linked and listed by the centre.

If the NARCH e-mail is not replied to, we cannot approve the listing.

- Multiple RCHs can be listed at a centre, providing each responds to the NARCH e-mail requesting confirmation of linking.

- If you need to amend any details of your centre listing log back in using your password. For example you may want to add that you can take Large Breeds for hydrotherapy at your pool.
- IF you amend ANY details on your centre listing, these alterations will need to be approved by NARCH and so your listing will automatically revert to “Pending” and will no longer be visible to the public. Send us an email advising us that you have made a change and we can then approve the changes and the centre should revert to being listed and will again be visible to the public.

[GUIDANCE ON CORRECT FLOATATION JACKETS/LIFEJACKETS](#)

In these challenging economic times there can be a temptation to consider cheaper products. But we would urge caution in the purchase of one of your core items of hydrotherapy equipment.



It is vital that floatation jackets/lifejackets are of good quality and are fitted properly. The spine must be maintained in a neutral position and the jacket must fit underneath the animal comfortably and securely.

Do not use floatation jackets that rely on two straps underneath with the floatation high up the sides or just on the back of the dog – these do not give enough support and control. If you are in any doubt please do contact NARCH for technical guidance. We are preparing a guidance note which will appear in the resource library on the [NARCH website](#) and the revised 2014 “Guide to Professional Conduct” when it is published.

[CLIENT RECORDS – HOW LONG SHOULD YOU KEEP THEM?](#)

There never seems to be enough space and so it seems a luxury to keep box after box of old client records. And yet keeping your old files is very important.

The general view is that you should retain your records for a minimum of 7 years. A client can bring a claim against you for alleged Professional Negligence up to 6 years after the alleged negligent act took place and your Insurers will still need to defend your position.

You need to be able to produce your file notes demonstrating what treatment you gave

the dog, in order to help Insurers build your defence.

VACCINATION AND HYDROTHERAPY

Our advice is that in general it is best that all dogs attending a hydrotherapy centre are vaccinated (for obvious reasons) but it is up to the RCH to use their discretion regarding this.

Some of our patients cannot be vaccinated for the following reasons: Immune mediated problems causing adverse reactions; receiving cancer treatment; vaccination falling due but vet advises not to vaccinate due to surgery, injury etc; some breeds are more likely to have an adverse reaction to vaccination.

So, requiring vaccination is the preferred route unless there is a good reason not to and if the client does not vaccinate, you must make it clear that there is a risk involved to their dog in attending a place where there could be dogs from a wider geographical area.

Treatment against kennel cough is also desirable, if a dog goes down with kennel cough then they must be excluded until 6 weeks after their last cough. This will delay hydrotherapy for up to 2 months and could have disastrous results for recovery – especially with spinal injury dogs.

CPD RULES

Continued Professional Development hours will now be calculated from 1st January annually, irrespective of when you first became Registered with NARCH.

All RCHs must show a minimum of 20 hours CPD annually (up to 5 hours may be achieved by reading relevant books or magazines).

To upload reading onto your personal NARCH record please type in the title of the book, the author and the ISBN reference number (usually found on the back of the book).

If you can scan the front cover of the book and upload this onto your record, so much the better. Don't forget to send us an email telling us you have added CPD to your record so that we can approve this for you.

If you attend both NARCH Education seminars each year and do 5 hours reading, you will easily achieve the 20 hours CPD required. At the Committee meeting in Bristol it was agreed to include CPD achieved in October to December 2013 during this transitional year.

Failure to show the required number of hours CPD on your NARCH record, may lead to you being temporarily suspended from the NARCH Register.

Check your record NOW – upload any CPD outstanding and plan for how you will achieve the required hours in 2014. Refresher First Aid can be counted as CPD hours.

FIRST AID COURSES



We have made some progress in listing new First Aid providers under our CPD section of the website and hope to add more over the coming months – please make sure that any First Aid Course you attend includes electrocution, drowning, seizures/fits and CPR and that the course is run by either a Vet or RVN.

Check when your certificate expires and book ahead. Training providers tell us they are frustrated to receive phone calls from RCHs who have expired

certificates and call just after a course has finished!

Your First Aid certificate must be renewed after 2 years and failure to show an up to date First Aid Certificate will lead to you being suspended from the NARCH Register until you provide a valid certificate.

CENTRE VISITS

Watch this space... we are providing training for a team of Centre Visitors and will be starting a programme of visits to review your processes and discuss any queries that you may have. We want to be pro-active and ensure that RCHs are working to the highest standards and complying with the Guide to Professional Conduct.

INSURANCE FOR RCHs WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY A CENTRE

If you are an RCH and employed by a Centre, you should not need to purchase your own Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurances.

You may use your employers Insurance Certificates to update your NARCH record

providing these insurances have been endorsed to cover employees.

[NARCH IS NOW ON FACEBOOK](#)

We have also set up a NARCH Group within our [Facebook page](#) so that RCHs can discuss points of interest collectively in private forum.

Please contact **Kirsten Foulkes** via enquiries@narch.org.uk for login details and clearance to access the Group page.

[CONTACT](#)

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